

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-12 ISO-00 AID-05 AGRE-00 EB-08
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DEPT PASS AID AND AGRICULTURE/OGSM

BRUSSELS PASS USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, EPAP, EAGR, EEC, EG, US

SUBJECT: TITLE I, PL-480 PROGRAM - EGYPT

REFS: (A) BRUSSELS 12103, (B) CAIRO 15289/TOFAS 175,
- (C) CAIRO 14865

1. WE ARE PLEASED TO NOTE FROM REFTEL (A) THAT EC HAS AGREED TO CONTINUE WHEAT USUAL MARKETING REQUIREMENT (UMR) FOR EGYPT AT FY-1978 LEVEL OF 2.0 MILLION METRIC TONS (MT) DURING 1978/79. HOWEVER, REDUCTION FROM AVERAGE COMMERCIAL IMPORTS DURING LAST 5 YEARS OF 2,737,772.2 MT SHOWN IN REFTEL (A) WILL HAVE MEANING ONLY IF ADDITIONAL FOOD AID IS FORTHCOMING TO MAKE UP DIFFERENCE BETWEEN UMR AND TOTAL IMPORT NEEDS.

2. IN REFTEL (B), WE HAVE ESTIMATED EGYPT'S IMPORT REQUIREMENTS FOR WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR (GRAIN EQUIVALENT BASIS) DURING FY 1979 AT NOT LESS THAN 4.9 MILLION
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MT, AND AS HIGH AS 5.5 MILLION MT IF MUCH NEEDED STOCK BUILDING TAKES PLACE. DEDUCTING UMR OF 2.0 MILLION MT (INCLUDES ASSUMED USUAL PURCHASE FROM AUSTRALIA OF 1.0) AND BALL PARK ESTIMATE OF 0.1 IN FOOD AID FROM OTHER COUNTRIES, THERE REMAINS DEFICIT OF BETWEEN 2.8 AND 3.4 MILLION MT. WE ARE NOT AWARE OF ANY LIKELY SOURCE OF FOOD AID TO FILL DEFICIT OF THAT MAGNITUDE

EXCEPT TITLE I. GOE HAS BEEN ASKING US FOR PAST 2 YEARS FOR 2.0 MILLION MT WHEAT/WHEAT FLOUR UNDER TITLE I. OUR CALCULATIONS ABOVE INDICATE PROGRAM OF AT LEAST 2.0 MILLION MT NEEDED IN FY 1979. EVEN IF TITLE I PROGRAM AT THIS LEVEL, GOE WILL STILL NEED TO FINANCE IMPORTS OF .8 TO 1.4 MILLION MT WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES IN ADDITION TO UMR.

3. BASIC RATIONALE FOR 0.5 MILLION MT INCREASE IN TITLE I PROGRAM IS TO PROVIDE FOR MUCH NEEDED STOCK BUILDUP (AND ANTICIPATED INCREASED CONSUMPTION). CURRENT STOCKS LEVEL OF 0.6 MILLION MT IS ONLY SIX (6) WEEK SUPPLY WHEN A TWELVE (12) WEEK SUPPLY CONSIDERED NORMAL FROM MANAGEMENT VIEWPOINT.

4. IN THAT CONNECTION, WE WOULD APPRECIATE EARLY RESPONSE FROM WASHINGTON AGENCIES TO RENEWED REQUEST TO AMBASSADOR FROM MINISTER OF SUPPLY FOR ADDITIONAL 400,000 MT WHEAT AND 100,000 MT WHEAT FLOUR IN FY-1978, REPORTED PARAGRAPH 6 REFTTEL (C). EILTS

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